

**Summary of Meeting**  
**CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team**  
**December 8, 1997**

**Key Discussion Items:**

- Levee System Integrity long-term goals were discussed at length including suggested rewording to specific goals contained in a memo written by Curt Schmutte.
- The status of several "subteams" of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team was discussed.
- The need for additional public outreach was discussed.
- The draft CALFED levee report dated October 1997 was discussed.
- Assurances issues were discussed as they relate to levee projects.

**Action Items:**

- The discussion on goals was so long that it was put on the agenda for the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team. The group will present their written comments on goals and team chair Rob Cooke will attempt to consolidate everyone's thoughts into a rewrite of the goals to be presented to all at the next meeting.
- Not all subteams have been meeting but some activity outside of official meetings has been ongoing in many cases that is related to the subteams interests. Of particular note is a Category III grant for a demonstration project that the In-Channel Island Subteam was recently awarded.
- More public outreach activities will be done to get input from individual reclamation districts.
- Cost Estimates for levee upgrade that are in the draft CALFED report should be revised before distribution of the draft EIR scheduled for February of 1998.
- Important assurances issues were presented by Mike Heaton and a subteam to discuss issues was officially formed as well as the scheduling of the first meeting of the subteam.
- The agenda of the next meeting was agreed upon. There will be a redraft of the goals. The next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team will be on January 7, 1998 from 9-12 in room 1142 of the Resources Building.

Draft Meeting Notes  
CALFED Bay-Delta Program Levee and Channel Technical Team  
December 8, 1997 at 1:00 pm in room 1142 of the Resources Building

**Attendance List:**

Rob Cooke, CALFED (chair)  
Curt Schmutte, DWR Central District  
Michael Norris, DWR Central District (minutes)  
Jim Martin, DWR Central District  
Mike Floyd, DWR Central District  
Lynn O'Leary, Corps of Engineers / CALFED  
Margit Aramburu, Delta Protection Commission  
Ed Littrell, Fish and Game  
Dante John Nomellini, Central Delta Water Agency  
Ray McDowell, CALFED  
Frank Wernette, Fish and Game  
Bill Betchart, Private Consultant  
Rich Block, Mega Sand  
Michael Ramsbotham, Corps of Engineers / CALFED  
Maziar Movassaghi, Resources Agency  
Aimee Dour-Smith, Jones and Stokes Associates  
Marc Leusebrink, Resources Agency  
Dave Tedrick, Corp of Engineers  
Bill Lettis, William Lettis and Associates  
Steve Deverel, Private Consultant  
Bill Croyle, Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Gilbert Cosio, Murray Burns and Kienlen  
Mike Hardesty, California Central Valley Flood Control Association  
Mike Heaton, CALFED Consulting Team  
Terry Mills, CALFED  
G. Fred Lee, Private Consultant  
Gil Labrie, DCC Engineering  
Ulrich Luscher, Woodward Clyde Consulting Engineers  
Chris Neudeck, Kjeldsen, Sinnock, and Neudeck Inc  
Tom Zuckerman, Central Delta Water Agency  
Stein Buer, CALFED  
Susan Hatfield, Environmental Protection Agency (participating via speaker telephone)

Rob Cooke convened the meeting. Rob had everyone introduce themselves.

The meeting minutes from 11-12-96 and 12-10-96 were reviewed and approved by the group with no comments.

Rob discussed the Levee System Integrity Program's long-term goals that were gleaned from prior work from Victor Pacheco and Curt Schmutte. Curt Schmutte had commented on the redraft of this work in a 12-2-97 memo to Rob and the memo was distributed to the group.

Margit Aramburu asked if the goals had been reviewed by anyone before and Rob said they had been presented to the Management Team on 11-16-97. The discussion of the goals was so long and intensive that Rob finally had to cut the discussion off to move on to the next agenda item. Rob asked the group to send in their written comments of the goals and he would attempt to consolidate everyone's thoughts into a redraft that would be made available to everyone for further discussion at the next meeting. Important comments on the goals would include:

- Dante asked about "improve site access" under goal # 3 and Rob said this is for emergency flood access and not recreational purposes. It was thought that this item belonged under goal # 5 which addresses "improve existing emergency response system".
- Goal # 1 dealing with a uniform standard was discussed. Lynn O'Leary thought that each island should be looked at from an individual standpoint rather than adopting a uniform standard (such as PL84-99) for all islands and Lynn noted that achieving that standard doesn't guarantee you get disaster assistance funding just because you got "pre-approved". Gil Cosio noted that achieving that standard means you won't get any federal monies and he cited Holland Tract and the 1987 floods as a specific example. Gil said that correspondence from the Corps was interpreted by FEMA to mean the island was essentially up to PL84-99 standard and, since the island was in such good shape, it was not eligible for any disaster assistance.
- The group discussed the differences between goal # 1A dealing with a uniform standard and goal # 1B dealing with further improvements over and above that level. Dante floated the notion that goal # 1A could be cost-shared by the locals at a 75-25 State/local split but goal # 1B would have to be 100% funded by the State as the locals could never afford it. Dante thought the Special Improvements Projects program should be the funding mechanism to achieve goal # 1B and it should be applied Delta-wide and not to the western islands only. The group concurred with Dante.
- Curt wanted dredging interests discussed before Bill Croyle had to leave and he felt these interests were important enough to warrant a separate bullet point for "beneficial reuse of dredge material" rather than being included with other things in goal # 3. Stein Buer explained that this item was briefly moved out of the levee program to another program before Rob Cooke even started with CALFED because there was insufficient staffing. However, dredging issues could be reinserted into the levee program according to Stein if this was the groups desire.
- Tom Zuckerman didn't specifically disagree with the goals except that he felt they needed to be reorganized under a new outline. Tom noted one had to take a step back and consider the "tools we need" when setting up an outline.
- The group discussed goal # 1C dealing with levee improvements with ecosystem restoration. It was suggested the use of the word "ecosystem" was too broad although no consensus was reached as far as the selection of alternate wording. As a spinoff, the group discussed dredging for flood control and the North Mokelumne system was selected

as an example. Curt and Stein discussed this concept and Stein discussed that dredging affected flood conveyance and thus belonged with the Storage/Conveyance unit and not with Levee System Integrity but Curt thought some localized dredging issues for improved conveyance could be dealt with by the levee group.

- Dante thought goal # 3 should be reworded to address habitat being developed "off" the levees and not "on" them where you can't help but run into it as part of routine levee maintenance. The group brainstormed rewording of the goal including how to reduce the conflict of habitat mitigation requirements with flood control activities but no consensus was reached. Stein suggested rewording the goal and bringing it back to the group.
- Invasive species, such as mitten crabs, are not addressed anywhere and Curt briefly discussed this concern.
- With respect to goal # 5 dealing with emergency response systems, Curt's specific rewording where OES and FEMA were mentioned was discussed. Dante thought that the role of OES and FEMA was to reimburse after a disaster and it was up to another agency to take the lead during a disaster and not wait for those agencies. Curt said Section 128 gave DWR the authority that Dante was referring to. The group discussed whether the existing authority could be revised to include guaranteed funding when DWR took the lead and made a decision on behalf of a Delta island.

The next agenda item dealing with the status of the subteams was discussed.

Curt discussed the progress of the Beneficial Reuse of Dredge Material Subteam. According to Curt, DWR, RWQCB, and BCDC have been collectively working on projects for beneficial reuse even though there hasn't been an official meeting of the subteam.

Curt discussed the progress of the Emergency Response Subteam. A web page is being prepared and OES has completed an electronic mapping of the Delta.

Margit discussed the progress of the In-Channel Island Subteam. The group did receive a Category III grant for Phase 1 of a demonstration project for 3 islands.

Margit discussed the progress of the Levee Associated Recreation Subteam. The group has not officially met but there are related activities that have occurred such as an inventory of water-oriented recreation facilities and another survey underway by the Dept of Boating and Waterways.

Steve Deverel discussed the progress of the Subsidence Subteam. A GIS system identifies the priority areas for subsidence control. Steve said he took topographic maps from the early 1900's and compared them with topographic maps from 1978. As a result of that work, Steve prepared mapping for Priority 1 to Priority 4 areas as shown on a large map that he held up to the group. The work is included in the draft CALFED report although the map in the report is not in color. Steve said the report needs to be integrated with options that are available for subsidence control. Susan Hatfield, participating via speaker telephone, thought that USGS had concluded that agricultural practices did affect subsidence control. There was brief discussion on the correct

distance from the toe of the levee to remain unfarmed and the number 2000 feet was discussed. Dante thought this was excessive.

Lynn O'Leary discussed the progress of the Seismic Assessment Subteam. Lynn said the jury is still out on how peat will react to earth shaking and a panel of geotechnical experts will be assembled. Tom Zuckerman reported that the answers the group was getting was not what was expected and there were results that showed both dampening and amplification from peat soils. Dante asked if seismic assessment would be used to redesign levees and Rob said the work at this time was to "quantify the risk".

Ed Littrell discussed the progress of the Levee-Associated Habitat Subteam. Ed says several projects are underway such as an attached berm at Canal Ranch, a DWR offshore habitat project at Sherman Island, another project on the tip of Decker Island where the fill being removed will be used for the Sherman Island project with the rest going to Three Mile Slough, and a Prospect Island Project. Ed discussed constraints with fish and wildlife and water quality as well as permit streamlining issues that surfaced with the group.

Rob discussed the next agenda item dealing with Outreach Activities. A recent meeting held in Walnut Grove appears to indicate more outreach needs to be done. Dante thought it would be difficult for the State to go in and dictate to locals how to do a project.

Rob and Lynn discussed the draft CALFED report dated October 1997. Lynn noted the report consisted of 190 pages followed by a series of appendices. Rob asked everyone to check their reports as some had 9 pages accidentally deleted. There was discussion of cost estimates to fix the levees being too high and Rob stressed the report is a "draft" one and the cost estimates are reconnaissance level only. Better numbers could result from input from district engineers such as Gil Cosio and Chris Neudeck.

Rob discussed Assurances which was the next agenda item. A subteam was formed and it will meet on 12-17-97 from 2pm - 4:30 in room 1603. Mike Heaton discussed the Assurances package in the CALFED report and made suggestions to the group on critical materials to closely read as opposed to other materials which could be glazed over.

Rob discussed the suggested agenda for the next Levee and Channel Technical Team meeting. Ed and Margit said to drop them from the tentative agenda as no more progress would be made by then. Stein said a feedback from the group on the rewrite of the goals belonged on the agenda. Bill Betchart said "emergency response" and "seismic" issues were why he attended the meeting and he felt they had not been adequately addressed. Bill thought emergency response should address the tentative number of levee breaches that could be simultaneously dealt with. Curt discussed this point with regards to Incident Command System (ICS) and Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) procedures.

Rob set the next meeting of the CALFED Levee and Channel Technical Team for Wednesday

January 7, 1998 from 9-12 in room 1142.

l&c1287.min